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PROJECT WATCH

Sun Shines on Residents of Colorado Court in Santa Monica

Pugh Scarpa Kodama's striking five-story design will turn heads on the Santa Monica Freeway because of its good looks—but will cause double takes when passers-by realize that the 199 attractive blue panels are in fact solar photovoltaic panels. In fact, the just-opened Colorado Court, which offers 44 single-room-occupancy apartments for low-income residents, is designed to be 100 percent energy independent, with the potential to sell power back to the grid. Offering energy cost savings to people who can really use it, the architects also incorporated shaping and massing of the structure to maximize natural ventilation, an abundance of daylighting through low-e glazing, a natural-gas-powered turbine/heat recovery cogeneration system, interiors created with recycled materials, rainwater collection system, and drought-resistant landscaping. The architect worked closely with the City of Santa Monica, the Community Corporation of Santa Monica, and a team of energy experts to make the project a reality.



Actions Taken at the September 20–21 AIA Board of Directors Meeting [Full Story](#)

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